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1. In early November 1949 General WANG Chen\* was in Tihua considering the suitability of the present Kuomintang officeholders for posts in the new government. No action had been taken prior to 15 November 1949. Because of difficulties arising from the extreme cold and the lack of transportation, the People's Liberation Army had made little progress since its arrival in the southern part of the Province\*\* General TAO Shih-yueh\*\*\* had sent propaganda units to explain this to all districts in order to make the eventual occupation as peaceful as possible.
2. During the week between 8 and 15 November 1949, numerous convoys arrived from the USSR. The trucks traveled at night, reaching Tihua four hours after sunset and leaving at midnight on the next day. Approximately every fifth truck carried unarmed Russian soldiers in full winter uniform. The drivers were Russians unable to speak Asian languages. On the night of 14 November 1949 approximately three hundred trucks arrived in Tihua. The convoys smelled of gasoline, and were believed to be carrying aviation gasoline as one of their principal loads.
3. In early November 1949 it was unofficially reported in Tihua that the Hambata airfield at Hami was to be extended in preparation for the inauguration of an air service to Peiping. Barracks near this airfield had been left in perfect repair. One report stated that the preliminary force would be part of the 6 Regiment previously stationed in Hambata, and would come from Alma Ata.\*\*\*\*
4. The local press in Tihua was, in early November 1949, completely taken up with anti-foreign articles by Russian writers portraying the USSR as China's only friend, who is crusading to save the world from American imperialism.
5. College students from Tihua were being sent away, ostensibly to receive higher education in medicine, engineering and the like. Ten women and forty men were scheduled to leave for Peiping by air on 16 November 1949. The same thing was done in 1935, when the training turned out to be in political science, and the students returned to become the spearheads of Communist

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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activism in Sinkiang Province.

6. The strict censorship of letters and telegrams in Tihua in early November 1949 rendered impossible communications with Kashgar or in any direction except to the coast.
7. LOU Chu-chiang of the Aliens Bureau reported that Ahmedjan Kasimov (Qasimi) and other Ili delegates were killed in an airplane crash while on their way to the Peiping Conference.

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\* [ ] Comment. WANG Chen is commander of the 2 Army Group (strength 60,000) of the 1 Field Army, and concurrently commander of the 2 Army (strength 15,000) of the 2 Army Group. See [ ]

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\*\* [ ] Comment. From the barrack accommodation vacated by the Kuomintang troops it is possible to estimate that the total number of Chinese Communist troops in Sinkiang Province does not exceed 20,000. The main concentrations are in the areas around Tihua and Hami.

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\*\*\* [ ] reported that General T'AO planned to leave Tihua.

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\*\*\*\* [ ] Comment. [ ] that Soviet troops will take over the Hamata airfield and extend it for military purposes.

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